

LAKE RIDGE SCHOOL CORPORATION

News

MAY 1998

Volume 4, 1997-1998



A Letter from the Superintendent...

Dear Parents:

You will soon be hearing the word JUMP START from your child's teacher and/or principal. What is Jump Start? It is your school's way of getting a head start on school this fall by providing three weeks of specific instruction just before school starts in August.

For students who will be going into the 3rd, 6th or 8th grade, Jump Start will help prepare for the ISTEP test which will be given in September. If your student is starting 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th or 7th grade, Jump Start will help them get a boost for the beginning of the year. Also, Jump Start will be held in your neighborhood schools.

Want to know more about Jump Start? Watch for our mailing during May. Also, call your school for more information.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Beach, Superintendent

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Michael Jordan at Black Oak?

Believe it or not, Michael Jordan shows up every single day at Black Oak School. In fact, he nearly has perfect attendance... in Mrs. Cleary's first grade classroom, that is. By now you've surely guessed that Black Oak's Michael Jordan is not the same Michael Jordan who plays for the Chicago Bulls. Can you imagine what it's like to have the same name as a basketball superstar? Well, way back when Black Oak's Michael Jordan was a mere kindergartener, his teacher, Mrs. Maura Ciszek, thought it was pretty cool. She thought what fun it would be if Black Oak's Michael Jordan wrote Chicago's Michael Jordan a fan letter. There was, however, just one problem. At the time of this great idea, Black Oak's Michael Jordan didn't know how to write! Well, not then, anyway. By the end of the year and with lots of practice in the Writing to Read Lab, Michael had learned enough about writing, that with a little help from Mrs. Ciszek, he managed to pen a short note to THE Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls.

Waiting for a reply from a superstar can be a real exercise in patience, that's for sure. And letters do get lost in the mail sometimes. So after nearly a year of waiting, and nothing, one might be less than optimistic. You can imagine then the surprise on the face of Black Oak's Michael Jordan, who is now in the first grade, when a very official-looking oversized envelope stamped NBA arrived in the mail.

It was, indeed, the real thing. Chicago's MJ sent Black Oak's MJ a picture of himself and a fold-out poster. Was it worth the wait? "YES!" said Michael Jordan. Frankly speaking, we at Black Oak think the two MJs have more in common than just their names. We think they are both superstars!



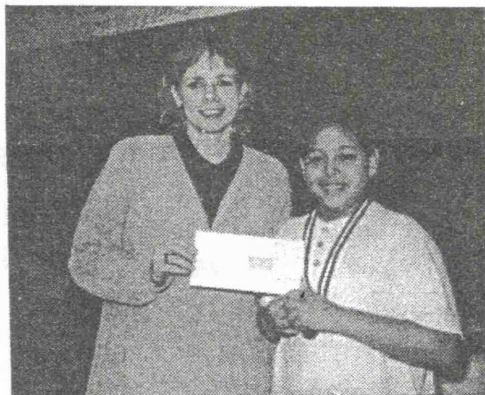
Black Oak first grader Michael Jordan is all smiles after receiving a poster from Chicago Bull Michael Jordan. He and his kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Maura Ciszek, waited nearly a year to hear from him.

JONATHAN RODRIGUEZ FROM BLACK OAK WINS ESSAY CONTEST

"How You Treasure a Good Book" was the topic that inspired Black Oak 4th grader Jonathan Rodriguez to write his winning essay for the annual "Reading at the Mall" event held this past March at Southlake Mall. Jonathan's teacher, Mrs. Jenny Johnston, promoted the writing contest in her class and encouraged her students to be clear, concise, correct, and creative in their writing. All of the neatly typed papers were then submitted to the essay committee at Southlake Mall for judging. Black Oak's entries were in competition with children from both Lake and Porter Counties. Only one winner would be chosen from each grade level, K through 12.

Snowstorm '98 turned out to be a factor in notifying Jonathan that he was a winner. Normally winners are notified *before* the "Reading at the Mall" event, but this year the storm caused a delay in the mail service and Jonathan didn't find out until a week later. By then, it was presumed that no one from Black Oak had won. So Jonathan was doubly surprised.

Jonathan was awarded a \$50 gift certificate to spend at Southlake Mall, a medal, and a Certificate of Achievement.



Jonathan Rodriguez of Black Oak School and his teacher, Mrs. Jenny Johnston, proudly show the award he received after winning the "Reading at the Mall" essay contest.

HOW TO TREASURE A GOOD BOOK BY JONATHAN RODRIGUEZ

You must treasure a good book like love toward your parents or toward your grandparents. When you have great parents they treasure you by taking good care of you. You treasure a good book the same way, take good care of it.

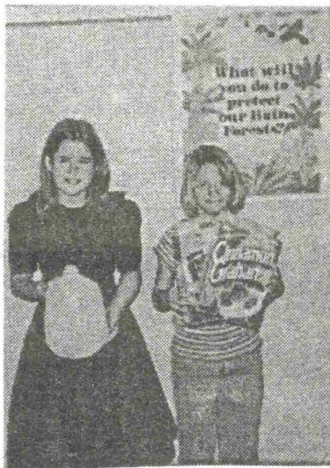
Books are like life to some people. They give them memories. We treasure our memories by sharing them with others. You treasure a good book the same way, by sharing it. Books are treasures in many ways. Books are a part of life.

Grissom Students go to Robert Crown Health Center

Grissom fourth graders took a trip to Robert Crown Health Center in Hinsdale, Illinois on Friday, February 27. The program, Planet Patrol, gave students a chance to learn about the importance of reducing the amount of garbage in our landfills. Children learned there are three R's you must remember when it comes to garbage: reduce, recycle and reuse.

When the children returned to school, they practiced what they learned by separating garbage from their sack lunches into plastic, paper and aluminum recycling piles. A parent took the recyclable home to be recycled.

When recycling, what was the most important fact the children learned? Be sure to take the caps off of all bottles to be recycled and throw them away. Recycling centers can't recycle bottles with the caps still on and since they don't have time to take them off, the bottles you thought you were recycling will end up being tossed away.



Pictured here are Jessica Malenki from Mrs. Kasarda's class and Samantha Poulter from Mrs. Hamang's class as they show their recyclables.

Snowstorm at Black Oak



The snowstorm of '98 won't be forgotten by these Black Oak kindergarteners who put together a keepsake book about their snowstorm experiences. Pictured here with their teacher, Mrs. Maura Cizek, are Brittney Kidd, Holli Fouts, Tyler Smith, Abrielle Davis, and Jonathan Zeiter.

Coach Ron Heflin Featured Speaker at Black Oak School

On February 12 at Black Oak School a variety program celebrating Black History Month unfolded before students, staff, and numerous guests.

Black Oak Principal Frank T. Ballard welcomed everyone for such a "joyous occasion" and thanked two Black Oak teachers, Mrs. Juanita Hughes and Mrs. Dianne Guernsey, who he credited with planning and preparing the Black History program.

Mrs. Guernsey then explained how Black History Month originally began. "To add to our celebration," Mrs. Guernsey said, "the fifth graders made the colorful African hats they are wearing. These hats are called *kufis*."

As the program continued, Caressa Upchurch read a poem entitled, "The Me I Am Learning To Be." Then several fifth grade students each described the accomplishments of a famous Black American. These reports were given by Lisa Harper, Jeanette Bodnar, Brian Harris, Paul Brock, Holly Stamper, Rachel Frey, Amanda Owensby, and Amanda Vibanco.

Next, fifth grade student James Choate played the beautiful melody, "Amazing Grace," on his violin.

Then it was time for Mrs. Hughes to introduce the special guest speaker, **Mr. Ron Heflin**. "Those who know him call him 'Coach'," Mrs. Hughes said. She went on to tell that Mr. Heflin is a teacher and the former head basketball coach at Gary Roosevelt High School and he is someone who has truly distinguished himself in the world of athletics. He is the recipient of awards and honors too numerous to mention. Most recently he was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. He played sports at Gary's Roosevelt High School (class of '58) and eventually returned there to teach and coach. Mr. Heflin resigned from coaching last year after racking up 22 seasons as Roosevelt's head basketball coach and compiling a record of 345-116. Over the years his Panther teams had won 9 sectionals, 5 regionals, 3 semi-states, and the 1991 State Championship. That same year he coached the Nation's Player of the Year, Glenn Robinson, who currently plays pro ball for the Milwaukee Bucks. Although no longer coaching, he stays involved with sports in other ways.

He also was an inspiring speaker. "People who do extraordinary things in life have common qualities," he told the children. "Number one, they are hard workers. They also stay focused and they know how to follow directions." He then gave a little test to the audience of boys and girls to see how well they were able to follow directions. "You have a good bunch here!" he told Mr. Ballard. He then had all the children sing "I Believe I Can Fly" from the popular movie, **Space Jam**. Mr. Heflin said he likes the positive message in the lyrics of that song. "There are miracles in life that we all can achieve."

The finale of the program and one well worth waiting for was provided by Calumet High School's own Gospel Choir.



Coach Ron Heflin, guest speaker for Black Oak School's Black History program, is surrounded by fifth grade fans, Paul Brock, Lisa Harper, and Amanda Vibanco.



Jonathan Brown leads Calumet's Gospel Choir during their dynamic performance at Black Oak School as part of the Black History program.

'Create An Ad' Contest Has Winners at Black Oak

The assignment was to create an ad for a local business to be published in a special edition of **The TIMES** newspaper called the **Kids' TIMES**. Taking on this challenge were Black Oak's fourth graders and their teachers, Mrs. Vernell Moye and Mrs. Jenny Johnston, who have been using **The TIMES** all year in their classrooms.

The students were asked to use their imagination to design an ad for **NBD**, a nationwide bank with many area branches. They were to follow specific requirements outlined by **NBD**. Entries were also judged on creativity, originality, and neatness.

Black Oak's first place winner, selected by **NBD**, was an ad designed by Sonae Choate. Sonae's ad appeared in the **Kids' TIMES**. She also was awarded a first place ribbon and a \$40 gift certificate to Southlake Mall. Sean Stephens was awarded 2nd place and he received a \$15 gift certificate. Placing 3rd was Heather Osha who was awarded a \$10 certificate.



Black Oak's three winners in **The Times'** Create An Ad contest are Sean Stephens, Sonae Choate, and Heather Osha.

St. Jude's Math-a-Thon

Lake Ridge Middle School participated in the St. Jude's Math-A-Thon again this year. The students participated in this event through their math classes.

The students obtained sponsors who made pledges for math problems that they completed in the math funbooks sent to us from St. Jude's Research Hospital.

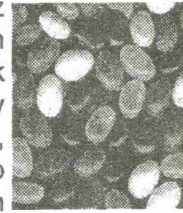
This year, the students collected over \$2,750 which was almost twice of what they collected last year. Amy Hicks collected the most pledges, which totaled \$128. Amy is a 7th grader at Lake Ridge Middle School.

Once again, our students gave of themselves to help others, whether it was to get sponsors or to give a donation themselves.

Thank you Lakers for a job well done!

BLACK OAK CHILDREN SAVOR FLAVORS (AT JELLY BELLY FACTORY)

If you are a jelly bean lover or a fan of its gourmet counterpart, the **Jelly Belly**, then you would have loved the field trip to the Herman Goelitz Confectionery Company. On January 30, the fourth graders at Black Oak School along with their teachers, Mrs. Jenny Vernell Moye, Chicago, Illinois, to see firsthand the process involved in creating and mass producing "the original gourmet jelly bean." The tour began in the factory's own retail store where the children watched a video introducing them to the rather exotic world of Jelly Belly flavors.



While walking carefully past huge mixing drums, noisy conveyor belts, and tray after tray of colorful candy, the children listened to the tour guide tell the story of the different stages of the Jelly Belly manufacturing process. They learned that ordinary jelly beans are only flavored on the outside, but a Jelly Belly has its mouthwatering flavor in both the shell and the center. They use natural ingredients for flavoring whenever possible and each Jelly Belly contains only four calories and has zero fat.

At the end of the tour, the children returned to the Jelly Belly store where they could purchase Jelly Belly products including bags of imperfect candy called Belly Flops. In addition, each child received a Jelly Belly bag containing all 40 official flavors. It was a very sweet trip, by all accounts.



Black Oak School fourth graders gather around a drum of "Belly Flops" at the gift shop of the Herman Goelitz Confectionery Co. before beginning the tour of the candy factory which makes the famous Jelly Belly candies.

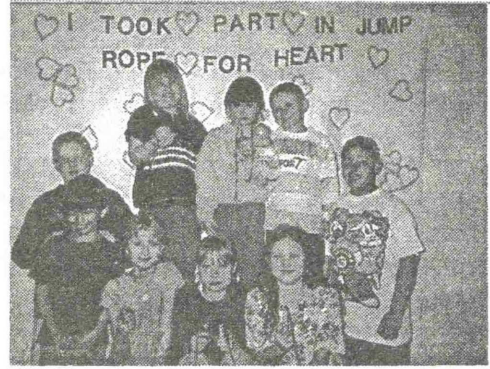
Black Oak is All Heart

Students at Black Oak School were eager to "jump on board" to help raise money to support The American Heart Association in their educational fund-raising event called **Jump Rope For Heart**. Funds raised through this event are used for medical research and for programs that help prevent heart disease and stroke.

Mrs. Jenny Johnston, fourth grade teacher at Black Oak, volunteered to be the school coordinator for this event and she received additional help from her fourth grade students. They made and displayed **Jump Rope For Heart** posters around the building. "Basically what happens," explained Mrs. Johnston, "is the students have a good time as they contribute to a good cause. Students who have collected donations for the American Heart Association get to jump ropes. We set aside a special day for doing this."

On the day of the jumping, Mrs. Johnston cranked up the music, then handed out the jump ropes. Students jumped until they were tired and then received a "heart healthy" apple snack. Students will be awarded various prizes for the money they collected.

Mrs. Johnston was pleased with this year's results and deemed the event a huge success. The goal was to raise \$300 for the American Heart Association and the children at Black Oak managed to exceed that goal by nearly a hundred dollars. She thanked all the boys and girls who participated and commended first grader, Michelle Dornhecker, who turned in the most money for this good cause. Mrs. Johnston looks forward to making this an annual event at Black Oak School.



These Black Oak students seem to know that exercise and fresh air are requirements for a healthy heart. Sonae Choate, Gilomaira Alvear, and Christina Fouts are jumping ropes to help raise money for the American Heart Association.



Black Oak students received a "heart healthy" apple after jumping ropes. Pictured here are fourth graders from Mrs. Johnston's class, left to right, front: Joshua Stone, Mitch Stephens, Heather Osha, Christina Fouts, Sonae Choate, and Jonathan Rodriguez. Back row: Kindergarteners Abrielle Davis, Holli Fouts, and Jason Morris.

Disabilities Awareness Month

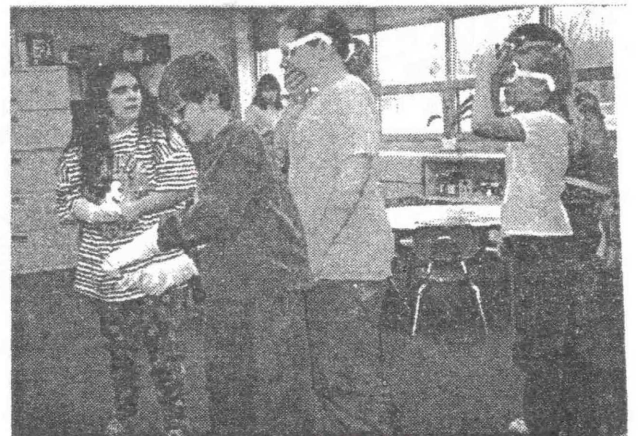
March was Disabilities Awareness Month and at Grissom School. Mrs. Ruth Ann Cheeseman's Special Needs class combined with Mrs. Lesi Hamang's fourth grade class for some interesting discussions and activities.

During one session, Mrs. Cheeseman explained that many of us have disabilities which are very common such as the need for eyeglasses and that others have disabilities which are more severe. In order to illustrate some of the difficulties which disabled people have, Mrs. Cheeseman had the fourth grade students play a game with her students. However, before they began, each of Mrs. Hamang's students became temporarily disabled by having to wear clouded glasses, glasses with one eye covered or socks on their dominant hand. The students all had great fun playing the game, but more importantly, learned to understand the frustrations that other people have to live with because of their disability.



Left: Pictured left to right: Stephanie Esquivel, Danny Allison, Jerika Trent and Samantha Poulter.

Right: Pictured left to right: Jeffrey Klaubo and Dennis Eastman.



Former CHS Graduate Honored at Induction Ceremony

For the first time in its thirty-four year history, the National Honor Society of Calumet High School instituted a Hall of Fame for former graduates of our school. Teachers provided names of past outstanding students, and a committee of four NHS members selected the first inductee – Candice Jimerson. Candice's selection was based upon her continued support of the four National Honor Society criteria for membership: scholarship, leadership, service and character.

After a dinner for one hundred and twenty-five parents and members, the induction ceremony was held in the high school auditorium where Candice's many accomplishments both during and after high school graduation were enumerated. Since graduation from Dartmouth and Harvard, Candice has taken on the responsibilities of administrator and part-time teacher at a private high school in Cincinnati. Candice was awarded a plaque and will have her name and year of induction inscribed on a plaque that will be placed in the high school.

In addition to the Hall of Fame induction, senior members were presented with their honor cards for graduation from their most influential teacher during their years at Lake Ridge. The following teachers were selected as most influential in these students' lives:

Justin Brown – Mrs. Muzek
Patty Beehn – Mrs. Head
Amanda Brown – Mrs. Korellis
Shanna Conover – Mrs. Verhulst
Ryan Greene – Miss Dodd
Michelle Gronendyke – Mrs. Denney
Shaettine James – Mrs. Flint
Nicole Jordan – Ms. Shinovich
Jason Wilkerson – Mrs. Walters
Amanda Ross and David Peralta – Mr. Traicoff
Normal Reithel, Bobby Owensby and Julian Wuchopfennig – Mr. Wadkins

Twenty-four high school students were inducted into the National Honor Society this year during the candlelight service. Two seniors were inducted – Justin Brown and David Peralta. Five juniors were taken as new members: Crystal Bannister, Jeffrey Hemphill, Tony Traicoff, Michael Vician and Julian Wuchopfennig. The following sophomores were also inducted – Amanda Akers, Josh Allenbaugh, Chrisa Alexander, Wesley Burnett, Jade Cloud, Fran Davis, Darcy Diehl, Brian Duncan, Elia Figueiro, Clarissa Jordan, Amie Patton, David Richardson, Ryland Sherman, David Taborski, Melanie Tauber, Matt Trammell and Jan Vines.

SNOWSTORM STORIES WITH HAPPY ENDINGS

What should have been a fascinating lesson in chicken embryology "hatched" into a real life or death ordeal because of Snowstorm '98.

Third grade classes at Hosford Park and Black Oak had received fertilized chick eggs on Monday, March 2 from the 4-H Department of Purdue's Cooperative Extension Service. The eggs were carefully placed inside an electric incubator, then turned several times a day in preparation for hatching.

Timing, of course, was everything and the eggs were scheduled to hatch on Monday, March 9 when the children would be able to observe the whole hatching process. That was the plan, but you know what they say about the best laid plans! Who would have guessed that Snowstorm '98 would come blowing in at rush hour Monday morning. How bad could things get? Not only was school closed but the power was out as well. OK, so the chicks would not have an audience as they entered the world, but without power there was no heat in the incubator. This meant they might not hatch at all.

This is where heroic measures enter into our story. At Hosford Park, third grade teacher, Mrs. Wendy Brown, summoned her sister who has a 4-wheel drive Jeep. The two of them braved the snowstorm on Monday to get to Hosford Park to rescue the eggs. Mrs. Brown brought them home where she could monitor the temperature and keep the hatching process on schedule. Mrs. Brown, her daughters, Samantha and Alexandra, and husband Glenn were reportedly thrilled when 11 of the 12 chicks emerged from their shells. She took many photos of the chicks hatching to show her students when she and the chicks returned to school on Friday. That is happy ending number one!

Black Oak's third grade teachers, Mrs. Detterline and Mrs. Baruch, were both snowed in at home and were left with the awful prospect that without heat at school all the chicks would be lost. There was no heat all day Monday as well as Monday night. Sometime Tuesday the power came back on as did the heat in the incubator. Credit the full moon or the luck of the Irish but the hatching must have started sometime Tuesday evening. On Wednesday, when Black Oak's custodians reported in to work, they found the newborn chicks and didn't hesitate to take temporary custody. Then the phones started buzzing back and forth between the custodial staff and two very excited and relieved third grade teachers. Sis Lawrence, Melissa Stewart, and Jerry Peters got parenting directions over the phone from Mrs. Detterline. They transferred the chicks to a brooding box, put in food and water, and, lacking a warming lamp, they turned up the heat and left the room temperature near boiling. The custodians served as terrific foster parents until Friday when school resumed. Total hatchees - 20 out of 24! Happy ending number two!

Japan via Longfellow Elementary

The third graders in Mrs. Beleslin's and Mrs. O'Connor's classes at Longfellow have been studying Japan. Mrs. Ryoko Kuwabara, who is from Tokyo, came to share her Nippon (what the Japanese call their country) with the students. The children were told about Japanese school life, land formations, climate, Children's Day and Japanese customs.

She brought special Japanese food for the students to taste. One was a fried rice cracker and the other was a small cake with a sweet potato paste in the middle. Origami fish and Sumarai were made, as well as origami helmets which are displayed on Children's Day, May 5. Carp kites were made and hung in the classroom, which is another way of celebrating this Japanese holiday.

Students learned to write and say the Japanese numbers from 1-10. They wrote rebus stories and used the Japanese characters in place of English words.

Children were read folktales from Japan and will culminate their activities by listening and discussing a folktale about cranes via Distance Learning at IU's East Asia's Studies in Bloomington, Indiana.

Charles Engstrom said this about Japanese schools, "I think it's really different to take off their shoes and put on another pair so they won't get the floor dirty. The children have to help clean up the science room and the bathrooms, too."

Kelli Dilbeck was amazed at one of the customs they have. She said, "They have to wash, with soap, outside the bathtub because the tub is only for soaking."

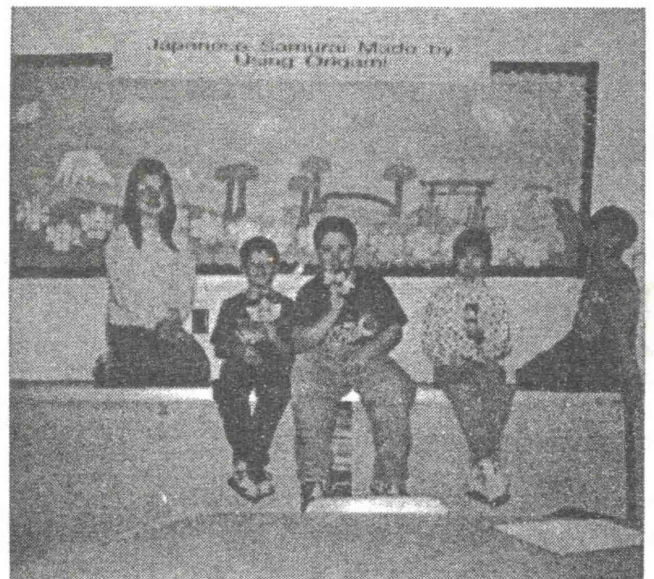
Many interesting facts were learned about Japan. Nathan Horn found the Japanese words for numbers to be so different from our English words. He said, "I thought the Japanese characters were hard to make because it was like drawing a picture for every number."

Samurai warriors were discussed when talking about Japanese history. Stephanie Johannsen remarked, "I liked learning about the Samurai warriors and the different ways they dressed to protect themselves. It was fun to make a Samurai warrior using origami."

Studying Japan has been both interesting and productive. The children enjoyed learning about the Japanese culture and also gained a better understanding of the Japanese people.



Mrs. Beleslin's third grade class wearing origami helmets.



Pictured left to right: Kelly Turpin, Mike Willson, Jeff Tucker, Jaclyn Jarrett and Juan Flores as they show Japanese dolls and Samurai they made.

Gospel Choir Explodes in Praise!

In a premiere spring performance this year, the Calumet High School Gospel Choir is planning a concert, "AN EXPLOSION OF PRAISE", to occur on the eve of Mother's Day, Saturday, May 9, 1998 at 6:30 PM in the CHS Auditorium.

More than just a spring concert, this spectacular event will not only celebrate Mother's Day, but also pay tribute to our graduating seniors. The evening promises to provide entertainment of the highest caliber with a special ballet performance by Margaret Barnard, a poetry rendition by Melanie Page and Lynette Bagwell, and of course, inspirational selections from our magnificent Gospel Choir.

This year's choir, under the direction of Jonathan Brown and the supervision of Ms. Johnnie McCray, has grown to a membership of 80 students. Our graduating senior members who have participated in several concerts with us will receive scholarships from this "Dollars for Scholars" fundraiser. Admission to this concert is \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door.

We hope to see you there!

THE GREAT GRISSOM BRAINFEST

During the week of ISTEP-Prep testing at Grissom School, the students took part in the Second Annual Great Grissom Brainfest. The week began with an assembly for all students in grades one through five. Mrs. Ginaven, principal, spoke with the students about the purpose of the test: to demonstrate what they have learned and what they need to learn. Then, each student was given a "magic" pencil filled with special powers to help them do their best on the tests.

At the end of the week, an all-school ice cream party was held with ice cream being donated by Dairy Rich. That was to re-build all the brain cells children used to do their best in testing.

All children were challenged each day to have perfect attendance for the week of testing because on Friday, a giveaway raffle was held. Each student who had not missed a day of testing had their name in the drawing for gifts which had been donated to the school. Area businesses had been contacted for contributions. Those businesses who supported this program were: Mark's Food Mart, Truck Stops of America, Rico's Pizza, Brady's This Is It, Pilot Oil, Golden Bowl Restaurant, Wiseway Food Center, Oldenberg & Son, Inc., Paul's Auto Yard, Parkhurst Barber & Hairstyling, Sand Ridge Bank, Trump Casino, Mike's Sporting Goods and Keck-Ridge Insurance Company.

Grissom School wishes to thank those community-minded businesses who helped this program be successful!

CHS Band Visits Grissom

The Calumet High School band entertained and instructed the study body of Grissom Elementary School recently. Mr. Bill Gumula, band director, questioned the Grissom students about their instrumental knowledge and listened to a variety of answers! Each section of the band was highlighted and the differences between the instruments was discussed.

The band also shared a wide variety of musical selections from those which are played during the marching band season to the pep band sessions and the selections of the concert band.

Teachers and students alike enjoyed the experience and Mr. Gumula was careful to look over the fifth grade students from Grissom who will be eligible to enroll in the band program when they are promoted to Lake Ridge Middle School.



CHS Band entertains Grissom student body.

National Teach Children to Save Day

On April 2nd, branch manager and assistant cashier, Hyon J. Kwak, from Bank Calumet, came to Hosford Park to present a program to our fourth and fifth grade students. The program was set-up to teach children the importance of saving their money. Some of the key points of the program included teaching children to always have some money saved in case you need it.

They suggested saving money earned through allowances or extra jobs in the neighborhood as well as saving money that was given as a gift. They also stressed not to spend more money than you have and to become a wise shopper and get the best buy for the least amount of money. Mr. Kwak also talked about investing your money so that it would earn more money.

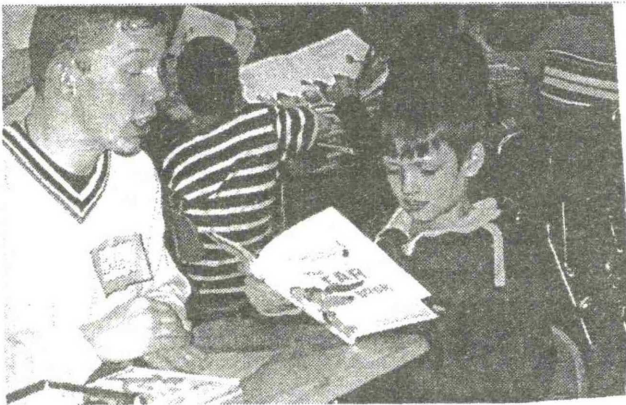
Last of all, the children discussed the importance of having a spending plan so they would know how much money they had and where they could spend it. Mr. Kwak explained that you should always know where your money goes. He suggested using the SSS Plan: Save some, Spend some and Share some.

“Have I Got a Book for You?”

Mrs. Laura Walters, Calumet High School English teacher and Ms. Connie Ensweiler, Grissom second grade teacher, recently joined their classes in a wonderful language arts connection. The students of one of Mrs. Walters' English classes spent two mornings at Grissom School reading to individual students who were joined by a few students from Mrs. Michelle Sienicki's Special Needs class. After reading a book to the younger children, the high schoolers questioned their new friend about what they thought about the book and also about their favorite things.

The assignment then moved back to CHS with those students developing an individualized book for their counterpart. The second visit was spent with the older member of the team sharing with their partner the book they had written for the younger child. The Grissom children were simply delighted and excitedly shared their new treasure with their principal, carrying their books outside for recess in order to enjoy it all the more.

This experience was an example of the kind of cross-corporation sharing which is encouraged through the recent inservice meetings of teachers in Lake Ridge, who have given voluntarily of their time to meet the needs of children. The goal of the Lake Ridge Schools is to prepare every child to do well on the state-required ISTEP testing and such programs will help all children to grow.



Pictured are Senior, Bobby Owensby with Aaron Lipford.



Pictured are: Junior, Debbie Gracin and Kathy Powers.

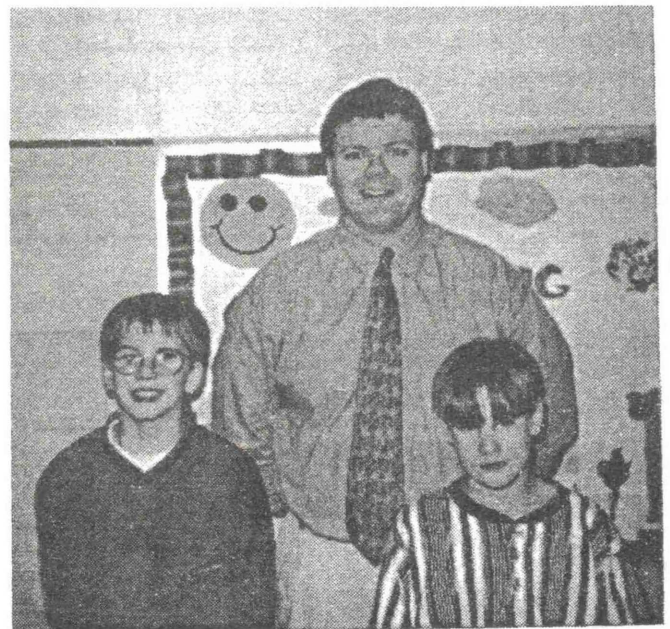
Alien Stories

After reading two stories, “Day of the Earthlings” and “Little Green Men,” students in Mr. Donald's class were asked to write their own stories about outer space travel and/or martians. Judging by the class response, Mr. Donald knew that he was going to get some very creative essays.

Brandon Schomber, whose paper was entitled, “Weird,” had Mr. Donald turn into an alien. Before this strange alien could capture Brandon, however, Brandon's loyal dogs and prairie dog attacked the alien and quickly forced his departure.

Other students like Jeremy Overton wrote about travel to distant places like the moon. Jeremy's science-fiction adventure featured a martian who was short, green and fast. Only when the martian tried to kick him off the moon did Jeremy leave and return to his home on Earth.

To conclude this lesson, Mr. Donald discussed the real chance of there being life on other planets. Despite his assurances, most students seemed to believe that there are other life forms out there in distant galaxies.



Pictured are Teacher, Mr. Donald along with Brandon Schomber and Jeremy Overton.

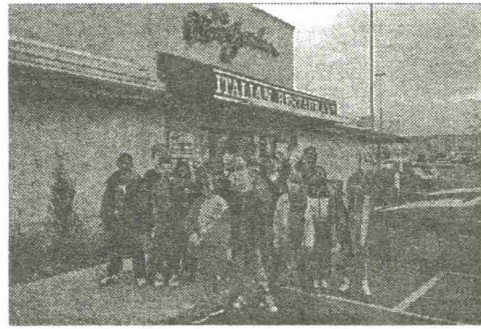
Pasta for Pennies

The Hosford Park Student Council recently took part in the Pasta for Pennies fundraiser for the Leukemia Society of America. This fundraiser was also being sponsored by the Olive Garden Restaurant. All the students were encouraged to bring in their loose change over a three week period, beginning February 9th. As an incentive, Olive Garden will be treating the class that brought in the most change to a free luncheon at their restaurant. That really motivated the students!

The Student Council members had to count the change and keep track of the daily totals. At first it wasn't very difficult, but then, it became overwhelming! Star Amusement came to our rescue, however, and loaned us a change counting machine. That saved our lives!

We are thrilled to report that the students at Hosford Park School raised a grand total of \$2,165.21 in just three weeks! The class winning the luncheon is Mr. Scott's third grade. Mrs. Schocke's PM kindergarten came in a close second and will be treated to Dairy Queen dilly bars from the Student Council. Mr. Worthington's fifth grade will be treated to a free snack from our snack cart for their third place efforts.

It was such a relief for the Student Council Advisor, Mrs. Cashen, to see the Brinks guard take the last of the pennies away! Job Well Done!



Mr. Scott's class pose for a picture by the Olive Garden.



Looks like these guys are enjoying the spaghetti. Certainly makes you want to have some too, doesn't it?

Hosford Park Fun Fair

On March 27th, the Hosford Park P.T.C. held its annual Fun Fair. This year's theme was, "The County Fair." Our teachers and students decorated the building with clowns, farm animals, amusement park rides and a midway with concession stands.

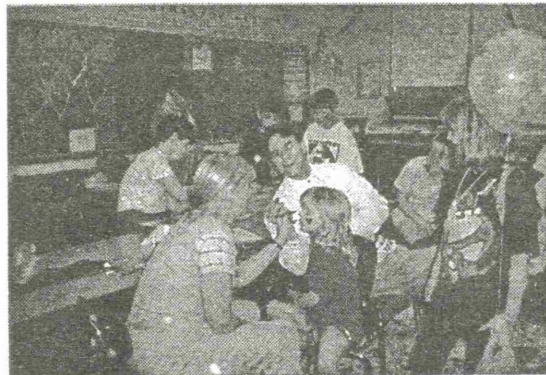
Our Fun Fair King, James Reid and Queen, Andrea Kilgore, cut the ribbon to officially start the Fun Fair. Many parents and teachers volunteered their time to help run the games and concessions. Many students and parents attended, including the school board president, Mr. Denney.

Everyone enjoyed the nights activities which included: a moonwalk, many different games, an arcade, karaoke, face painting and lots of good food.

Bank Calumet, Market Day, Lake County Library, Lake Ridge Fire Department and the Conbeam Family Center set up booths. Thank you to all who helped make the Fun Fair a success!



Pictured left to right are: Jerome Harris, Justin Ray and Jeremiah Ray singing Karaoke style.



Ms. Shropshire and Mr. Worthington participate in the face painting.



Queen, Andrea Kilgore and King, James Reid.

Technology Connects School and Homes at Hosford Park

Hosford Park students and their families recently began implementing an innovative, educational technology program with the Lightspan Partnership, Inc. Hosford Park teachers, Ms. Shropshire, Mrs. Schocke and Mrs. Malinowski, together with Mrs. Shirley, were awarded a state 4 R' grant affording them the opportunity to hook-up with Lightspan.

Lightspan connects schools and homes with curriculum-based interactive software, used on Sony playstations, specifically designed to enrich the classroom environment, and then extend that environment into every student's home. Students from Kindergarten through 5th grade will be able to take advantage of this new technology.

The Lightspan program will provide Hosford Park classrooms with hundreds of hours of curriculum-based software in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics. Selected students and their families will also have access to this software at home as well.

Kindergarten and first grade parents headed off this program by attending a meeting with the representative from Lightspan on March 20th about the use and setup of these playstations. Although kindergarten and first grade will be the first to utilize this program this year, all grades will have access to this program throughout the year.

It is intended that the second grades will take these stations home over the summer to better prepare for the upcoming ISTEP test at the beginning of the third grade year. Third grade through fifth grade will also have access through Reading Lab services. It is also planned that students will have access to this program built-in to after-school sessions in the future.

It is the intention of Hosford Park that this program will allow families to become more involved in their child's schoolwork and be interactive with the classroom teacher.

Ms. Shropshire (parent/school coordinator), has already received many encouraging comments from parents who are now using Lightspan in their homes. We at Hosford Park are very excited about this program and anticipate wonderful results in using this new technology.

Longfellow School

4th & 5th Grade Girls' Basketball Champs

Both 4th and 5th grade girls' basketball teams won 1st place in the girls' basketball tournament held at Lake Ridge Middle School. The 4th grade team played Hosford Park on February 4th and had a superb victory. Names of 4th grade players are: Alicia Boesel, Kristina Bremer, Brenda Buchko, Brinney Guined, Alicia Ireland, Jessica Richardson, Brooke Sechrest, Christina Short, Jenny Stooksbury, Jeana Trawick and Lisa Watson.

The 5th grade team also played an outstanding game against Grissom School. They, too, had a winning victory.

Both teams had fun, learned a lot about basketball and felt very proud to bring two first place trophies home to Longfellow School. Their coach would like to say that all of the girls worked very hard, we had a lot of fun and learned a lot about the sport and about teamwork. Coach Kwasniewski said it was a pleasure working with both teams. She would also like to thank the parents for bringing their children to practices, games and tournaments, and also for coming out and watching their children play. Coach Kwasniewski would also like to thank the cheerleaders and sponsors for cheering and bringing school spirit to our teams.

Names of the 5th grade players are: Crystal Baldner, Maggie Buchko, Jessica Castellano, Rachael Gaul, Nicole Laas, Alena Perez, Mary Silva and Jill Spencer.



"Sure it's sloppy! You ever try to do homework and watch TV at the same time?"

Tipingee at Longfellow

Last fall, Louise Zimek's 5th grade class at Longfellow put on a play called, "I'm Tipingee, She's Tipingee, We're Tipingee, too." We invited every class in the school to come and watch the play; even one class wrote us a letter saying they loved the play! Many kids walked around for about a month singing, "I'm Tipingee, She's Tipingee, We're Tipingee, too," over and over again. This year we will be putting on another play called, "The Magic Sieve."

"The Magic Sieve" is about the way Japanese people live during the New Year. This play correlates with the Winter Olympics that were just held not too long ago, because the Olympics were held in Japan and this folktale was formed in Japan. All the children that helped make this play and the students that are starring in the play, really, really enjoyed it. We just wanted to say that if you saw the play, we hope you enjoyed it, too!

We really enjoyed making all the props, such as a Japanese boat, Japanese lanterns, hibachis, background scenery and even some people brought in kimonos and sieves. During the time we were getting the play ready, we were also learning about Japan and its culture. We also went on the Internet to find out more on Japan.

Now we will introduce the cast. The brother is Mike Fowler, his wife is Candace Day and his sister is Rachel Schroeder. The fisherwoman is Cherish Sakovich, the goblins are Alison Flores as goblin #1, Cindy Galka as goblin #2, Amber Marlow as goblin #3, Mary Lou Silva as goblin #4 and Wesley Mahler as goblin #5. The neighbors are Joe Junkin as neighbor #1, Joe Wass as neighbor #2, Mike Perez as neighbor #3, Tommy Torres as neighbor #4 and Joy Penley as neighbor #5. The spirit of the sieve is Krystal Kostanski, Jamie Voyles is narrator #1 and Nicole Ann Laas is narrator #2.

We hope everyone in the play liked their parts. Some actors and actresses showed great interest in the play. Even the prop people show interest in the play. Oh, yes, we forgot to name the prop people. They are: Jessica Boer, Jessica Cullum and Krystal Kostanski. So, we really hope that if you saw the play that you enjoyed it!

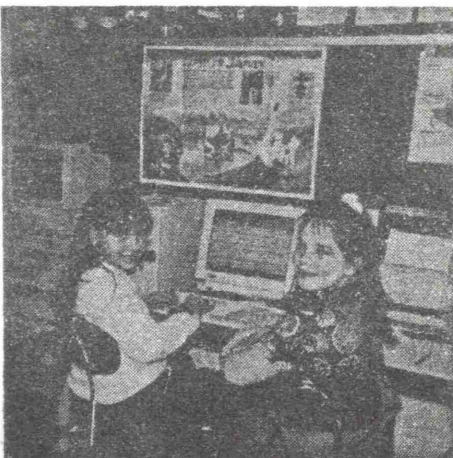
Story written by: Rachel Schroeder, Cindy Galka and Krystal Kostanski



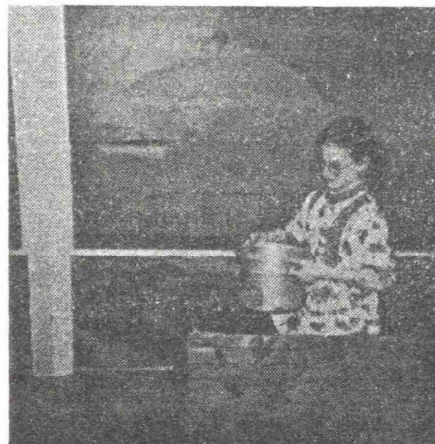
Pictured are: Mike Fowler, Candace Day, Rachel Schroeder, Cherish Sakovich and Jamie Voyles.



Pictured are: Mary Silva, Cindy Galka, Amber Marlow, Wesley Mahler and Alison Flores.



Pictured are: Krystal Kostanski and Cindy Galka.



Pictured here is Rachel Shroeder.

Retirements at Lake Ridge Schools

The following employees retired this year from Lake Ridge Schools:

Mabel Parsons, Janitress at the Education Center. Ms. Parsons had been employed as a janitress since June 2, 1986 and she moved to the Education Center on April 10, 1989.

Barbara Hernandez, Secretary at Calumet High School. Mrs. Hernandez has served the Lake Ridge Schools as a substitute teacher and Title I aide before becoming a secretary in 1973 at Hosford Park Elementary School. She then worked as a library clerk and then a guidance secretary at Lake Ridge Middle School before moving to the high school secretary position in 1992.

Louise Zimek, teacher at Longfellow Elementary School. Ms. Zimek served as a teacher at Dulles Elementary School from 1967-1971, then she moved to Longfellow from 1971 to 1980 and to Lake Ridge Middle School from 1980 to 1986 before moving to Longfellow Elementary in 1986.

Rosemary Gal, taught at Black Oak Elementary School for 6 years before working the last 17 years at Longfellow Elementary School.

Janice Hanzivasilis, teacher at Lake Ridge Middle School. Ms. Hanzivasilis has been our home economics/family & consumer science teacher at Lake Ridge Middle School since September 2, 1957.

Tom Dakich, teacher at Calumet High School. Mr. Dakich has been with the Lake Ridge Schools since 1959. He worked at both Lake Ridge Middle School and Calumet High School. He has been a teacher, dean of students, assistant principal and principal.

Roberta Dakich, teacher at Longfellow Elementary School. Mrs. Dakich has been employed at Lake Ridge Schools for 36 years. She also worked for the Gary School Corporation for 3 years before coming to Lake Ridge Schools. She began at Devault Elementary and finished this school year at Longfellow Elementary.

Linda Demo, teacher at Hosford Park Elementary School. Ms. Demo was employed with the Gary School Corporation for 15 years before coming to Lake Ridge Schools in 1979. She taught at Grissom Elementary, Lake Ridge Middle School, Calumet High School and Hosford Park Elementary.

Pollye Waggoner, Title I Aide at Grissom Elementary School. Ms. Waggoner has been employed as a Title I Aide since January 19, 1976. She also substituted for us for one year.

Frank Ballard, principal at Black Oak Elementary School. Mr. Ballard served in the Navy for 3 years. He worked in the Chicago School system for 3 years before coming to Lake Ridge Schools. Mr. Ballard has served our students as a teacher, assistant principal and principal.

We want to wish these individuals a wonderful retirement and thank them for their many years of service to the Lake Ridge Schools, students and community.

THANKS



SHARON JOHNSON-SHIRLEY

PRINCIPAL

HOSFORD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**THANKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR
1997-1998**

SCHOOL, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY

IN

"PARTNERSHIP"

Longfellow School Read-A-Thon

The Student Council of Longfellow sponsored a Read-A-Thon during the months of January and February. There were 3,345 books read and \$299 raised by pledge money. 152 students participated in the Read-A-Thon. "Trees of Knowledge" were placed in the hall of each grade. Students earned apples and stickers for the books they read. The money raised will be used to buy models (eye, ear, teeth, etc.) for the library.

The winners for most books read:

Kdgn-Danny Minard; 1st Grade-Brad Patton, 2nd Grade-Mary Cowart, 3rd Grade-Nicole Donald, 4th Grade-James Minard and 5th Grade-Joey Minard.

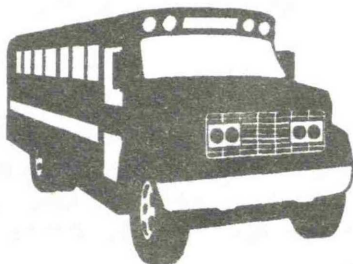
The most money raised was:

Kdgn-Danny Minard, 1st Grade-Jessa Musall, 2nd Grade-Elizabeth Minard, 3rd Grade-Rose Lawson, 4th Grade-James Minard and 5th Grade-Joey Minard.

The winners will be treated to an ice cream party in May. Thank you to all the people who supported the students!

Last Day of School

Due to the bad weather we had in March, we are required to make up 2 days. We will be making these days up on Friday, June 5 and Monday, June 8, 1998.



The last student day for the 1997-1998 school year is **June 8, 1998**, it will be a full day of school for students in the Lake Ridge Schools. Buildings and busses will operate on the regular schedule, this includes students being transported to the Gary Area Career Center. The one exception is *Kindergarten*.

The last day of Kindergarten will be Friday, June 5, 1998.

On June 8, students of Blessed Sacrament School will be transported in the morning only.

Registration for 1998-1999 School Year

We will again conduct registration this year for **ALL** students including those currently enrolled in the Lake Ridge Schools and those registering for the first time.

We are in the process of working out a schedule and better methods for registering students. Registration for the 1997-1998 school year went very well, which was an improvement from the 1996-1997 school year registration.

Please look for the next newsletter during the summer for more information and dates.

Summer School Changes

There are several summer school changes for the summer of 1998. Please see the following page for details.

Adult Education Date Set

Kathleen O'Neal, Director of Adult Education, announced that graduation ceremonies for area adults enrolled in the Lake Ridge Adult Education Center has been scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 1998.

The program will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Calumet High School. GED Certificates will be issued to students who have earned their General Education Development Certificates during the past school year. Diplomas will also be awarded to adults who have completed their high school requirements.

Any adult interested in either the GED or adult high school program can get more information by calling 989-7816 or visiting the center at 6111 West Ridge Road.

Head Start Highlights

As the Head Start school year is quickly coming to a close, the following important dates should be noted on your Head Start Calendar:

April 20-24	Head Start Registration for the 1998-1999 school year
May 8	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
May 15	End of Year Field Trip to Celebration Station
May 22	Parent Celebration
May 29	Family Picnic at Oak Ridge Prairie

The Head Start office will close for the summer on Thursday, June 11, 1998. The office will reopen on Monday, August 17, 1998. At that time, we will continue to take applications for enrollment for the 1998-1999 school year.

The Head Start staff wishes everyone a safe and restful summer.

SUMMER SCHOOL CHANGES

Summer School for the Summer of 1998 has been changed drastically. Please review the following information in order to plan for your child's summer school classes. Classes will be held at **INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS**.

CALUMET HIGH SCHOOL

Summer School at Calumet High School will run from June 10-August 7, 1998 from 8 AM to 12 Noon/5 days a week. Schedules for the following classes will be provided to participating students on June 10, 1998.

Driver Education (may vary)
Summer Band
Summer Drama/Fine Arts
Swimming

Next, we have summer school credit classes running in two separate sessions at Calumet High School. The sessions will be held as follows: **Session A:** June 10-July 9, 1998 (no school on July 3). Classes are from 8 AM to 12 Noon/5 days a week; **Session B:** July 13-August 7, 1998. Classes are from 8 AM to 12 Noon/5 days a week. See your high school guidance counselor for available classes for the summer.

We will also be holding ISTEP+ remediation/preparation classes in two separate sessions. The sessions will be held as follows: 1st Session: July 13-July 31, 1998. Classes are from 8 AM until 12 Noon. 2nd Session: August 3-21, 1998. Classes are from **6 PM-9 PM**.

Lastly at Calumet High School, we are holding 8th grade English and Mathematics skills summer school classes. These classes are for students invited to attend who may be entering 9th grade in August. These sessions will correlate with the middle school's program. The classes will be held from July 27-August 21, 1998 from 7:30 AM to 11 AM/5 days a week.

LAKE RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summer School at Lake Ridge Middle School will run from July 27-August 21, 1998 from 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM/ weekdays.

Classes held will be for ISTEP & Essential skills. Classes will be held for those **entering** 6th grade, 7th grade and 8th grade.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Summer School at all four (4) elementary schools will run from July 27-August 21, 1998 from 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM/ weekdays.

Classes held will be for ISTEP & Essential skills. Classes will be held for those **entering** 2nd grade, 3rd, grade, 4th grade and 5th grade.

OTHER NOTED INFORMATION

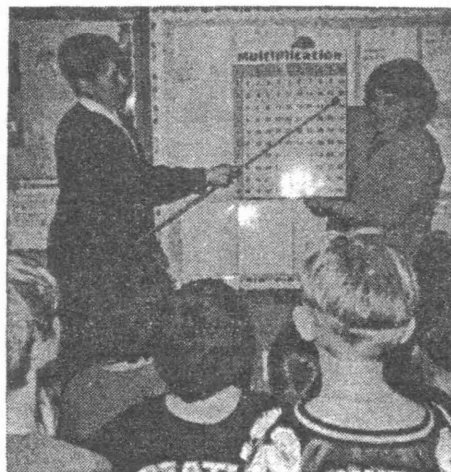
You will be receiving information directly from the school your child is enrolled at regarding summer school and the eligibility for summer school. We are concentrating this year on ISTEP remediation and preparation. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer the elective classes we held last summer school. However, we may look at those again in the future.

Musical Multiples at Longfellow

Powerful learning tools empower students to excel – in class and in life. And, nothing could be better than learning to music. Most children learn their ABC's to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." So why not learn the multiplication tables with music as well.

That's exactly what Mrs. Beleslin's third grade class is doing with musical songs taught by their music teacher, Mrs. Sparks.

By combining the two disciplines of Math and Music, children are having fun while learning their multiplication tables in a unique way. What a good example of integrated curriculum education being applied in our schools at Lake Ridge.



Pictured are Mrs. Beleslin and Mrs. Sparks teaching the students their multiplication tables through music.

LAKE RIDGE SCHOOLS

6111 West Ridge Road
Gary, Indiana 46408

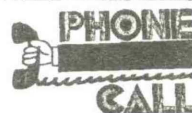
Superintendent

Robert M. Beach, Ed. D.

Board of School Trustees

Gene Allbritten
Edwin C. Denney
Robert Joseph
Betty Stash
Robert L. Taylor

The following are phone numbers for
our schools and special services.
Please use these for quick reference.



Black Oak	844-1920	Head Start	989-7823
Grissom	844-2255	Adult Education	989-7816
Hosford Park	980-3390	Questions about	
Longfellow	923-7004	GED	838-1819
Lake Ridge		Bus Problems	838-1819
Middle	980-0730		
Calumet High	838-6990	Use of School Facilities:	
Education		CALL the Bldg. Concerned	
Center	838-1819		

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MISSION STATEMENT LAKE RIDGE SCHOOLS

The Mission of the Lake Ridge Schools, in cooperation with the parents and community, is to provide the opportunities and the resources for the academic, emotional, and social growth of our students, empowering them to be responsible, productive citizens in an increasingly complex global society.

Calendar of Meetings

Note: Dates are tentative—check for changes and exceptions. For example, most PTCs do not meet during January.

Black Oak PTC

Second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Calumet PTC

Third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Grissom PTC

Second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Hosford Park PTC

Third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Longfellow PTC

Second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Lake Ridge MS PTC

Third Monday at 7:00 p.m.

School Board

Second and Fourth Mondays
at 7:30 p.m.

Band Boosters

Second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Athletic Boosters

Third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.